

# ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

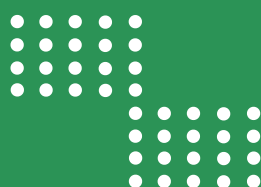


Rivers  
West

District for  
Sport, Culture  
& Recreation



**SASK LOTTERIES**



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# CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the Rivers West District's Annual General Meeting for 2025-2026

In this rapidly changing and advancing world, Rivers West is not only adapting but thriving. Our values and mission statement will always be the core of this organization. The delivery of our services is streamlined and is targeting more communities. Our Partnerships have expanded throughout the entire province. We are grateful for the continuing funding through the three Globals; SaskSport, Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association and SaskCulture. We Thank you.

Our staff always have been and continue to be some of the best in the entire province. Their commitment and dedication are the foundation of Rivers West District. We Thank you.

Antje, our Executive Director is leading us with innovation and unwavering dedication. We thank you.

I would like to acknowledge our amazing volunteer board of directors. It is humbling and a privilege to work with such a knowledgeable group. Their visions and ideas are inspiring. They eagerly share their individual fields of expertise. There is a rumour that one of the board members is a superhero. He has no cape; however, he does have a truck! We thank you.

Rivers West has some of the most amazing volunteers. They are the strong voices of the community groups they represent. We thank you.

Rivers West is the Best! This is true because of you!

Respectfully submitted,

*Arlene Southgate*

Arlene Southgate, Chairperson

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS



Welcome to the Rivers West District Annual General Meeting.

As I reflect on the past year, I find myself thinking about how much can change in twelve months. When I wrote my remarks for last year's AGM, I was only a few months into my role as Executive Director. At that time, I was still finding my footing learning the organization, understanding the complexities of the position, and navigating a significant leadership transition. It was a year filled with questions, challenges, and an incredible amount of learning. Today, I feel something very different: confidence.

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to grow into this role and gain a deeper understanding of what makes Rivers West District such a valuable organization. More importantly, I have gained an even greater appreciation for the people who make this work possible every day.

Our staff continue to impress and inspire me. Their knowledge, creativity, professionalism, and commitment to the communities we serve are the foundation of everything we accomplish. Each member of our team brings unique strengths and perspectives that help us better support local leaders, volunteers, organizations, and residents throughout the district. I am continually humbled by what they know, what they contribute, and the dedication they bring to their work. It is a privilege to learn from them every day.

I am equally grateful to our Board of Directors. Effective governance is one of the most important ingredients in a successful organization, and Rivers West is fortunate to have a board that remains focused on the bigger picture. Throughout the year, our directors have demonstrated thoughtful leadership, asked important questions, and made decisions with the long-term success of our communities in mind. Their willingness to engage in difficult conversations, think strategically, and support the organization through change has been invaluable.

This past year has also been one of strengthening our foundation. We have continued to build programs, support community initiatives, foster partnerships, and create opportunities that help our communities thrive. While the work is not always easy, it is meaningful, and it is driven by the belief that strong communities are built by people who care deeply about where they live. Looking ahead, I am excited about the future of Rivers West District. We have a talented team, a dedicated board, strong community partners, and a clear sense of purpose. Together, we are well-positioned to continue supporting the growth, resilience, and success of the communities we serve.

Thank you to our staff, board members, partners, volunteers, and community leaders for your continued trust, collaboration, and commitment. It is an honour to serve as your Executive Director, and I look forward to the opportunities and accomplishments that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Antje Rongve". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Antje Rongve, Executive Director

# 2025–2026 YEAR AT A GLANCE

## A Year of Growth, Connection and Community Impact

Throughout 2025–2026, Rivers West continued to strengthen communities by investing in leadership, partnerships, sport, culture, recreation, and organizational excellence across west-central Saskatchewan.

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 🏠 57 Communities Served
- 🤝 300 Community Consultations
- 🌱 65+ Partnerships Supported
- 🎓 9 Leadership Development Opportunities
- 👥 23 Networking Opportunities
- 🙌 600+ Participants Engaged
- 💰 \$17,000 Distributed in Community Funding
- 🏅 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games
- 🧭 5 Dedicated Staff

# BUILDING A STRONGER ORGANIZATION

**Strong communities are supported by strong organizations.**

Throughout 2025–2026, Rivers West invested significant time and effort into strengthening its governance, financial stewardship, human resource practices, and operational systems. These improvements enhance accountability, support informed decision-making, and position the organization for long-term sustainability.

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

- Governance Manual updates
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Board policies
- Board development

## **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

- New financial policies
- Clean audit
- Improved reporting

## **PEOPLE & CULTURE**

- HR Manual Update
- Salary grids
- Staff development
- Performance management

## **LOOKING FORWARD**

- Continuous improvement
- Future governance refresh
- Commitment to accountability



# Team Rivers West

## More Than Competition

Sport is about more than competition—it is about confidence, friendships, leadership, and experiences that stay with us long after the final event has ended.

The 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games, hosted by Meadow Lake and Flying Dust First Nation, brought together athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and mission staff from across Saskatchewan to celebrate sport and community. For Team Rivers West, the week was filled with personal achievements, new friendships, and unforgettable moments that extended far beyond the podium.

Months of preparation culminated in an incredible week of competition, where our athletes proudly represented communities across west-central Saskatchewan. Behind every athlete stood dedicated coaches, managers, mission staff, families, and volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure every participant had the opportunity to succeed.

One of the week's proudest moments came when Team Rivers West was recognized with the Joe Griffith Award, presented to the Most Improved District at the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games. The award reflected not only athletic achievement, but also the sportsmanship, teamwork, and District pride demonstrated throughout the week.

For athlete Tristan Maatman, who proudly served as Team Rivers West's flag bearer and helped accept the Joe Griffith Award during the Closing Ceremonies, the experience left a lasting impression.

For Rivers West, there is no greater measure of success than hearing from an athlete whose experience was shaped not only by competition, but by the encouragement, leadership, and sense of belonging they found throughout the week.



As Team Rivers West returned home, they brought back more than medals and memories—they returned with new friendships, greater confidence, and a renewed appreciation for the power of sport to connect communities and inspire future leaders.

Rivers West extends its sincere thanks to the Saskatchewan Games Council, the Host Society, Meadow Lake, Flying Dust First Nation, our mission staff, coaches, managers, officials, volunteers, families, and every athlete who proudly represented our District. Your commitment and passion made the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games an extraordinary success.





***"This was the most unforgettable experience I've ever had in my sports career... The Mission Staff definitely made my experience at the Games better than I could have ever imagined."***

**— Tristan Maatman  
Team Rivers West Dual Athlete &  
2026 Flag Bearer**

**Team Rivers West flag bearer Tristan Maatman during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games.**





# BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES THROUGH LEARNING

Strong communities are built by people who are equipped with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to lead. Throughout 2025–2026, Rivers West District continued to invest in community learning by offering educational opportunities that strengthened local leadership, supported volunteers, and encouraged collaboration across west-central Saskatchewan.

From governance and grant writing to mental health, coaching, culture, recreation, and community development, learning opportunities were designed to meet the evolving needs of our communities. Whether participants were board members, recreation professionals, volunteers, municipal leaders, educators, or residents, each workshop provided practical tools that could be taken home and applied within their own organizations and communities.

***“It was wonderful to spend the day learning something new while connecting with people from across our community” – Participant***

Learning also became a catalyst for connection. Participants not only gained new knowledge but also shared ideas, celebrated successes, and built relationships with others who are equally passionate about strengthening their communities. These conversations continue to inspire collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to improving quality of life across the District.

Throughout the year, Rivers West was proud to partner with provincial organizations, municipalities, Indigenous communities, libraries, museums, local businesses, and community groups to deliver a diverse range of learning opportunities. These partnerships expanded access to training and ensured programming reflected the unique strengths, interests, and priorities of the communities we serve.

By investing in people, we are investing in stronger, more resilient communities. Every workshop, conversation, and new connection contributes to a future where local leaders feel supported, volunteers feel empowered, and communities are better equipped to create meaningful opportunities in sport, culture, and recreation.

## Learning Opportunities Included:

- |                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Planting Workshops                                |  Sport Medicine Workshops                      |
|  Barn Quilt Painting Workshops                     |  Aboriginal Coaching Modules                   |
|  Trauma-Informed and Cultural Sensitivity Training |  Blanket Exercises                             |
|  Mental Health First Aid                           |  Working in Community with Change & Transition |
|  Board Governance                                  |  Community Coaches Day                         |
|  Grant Writing                                     |  Play Leadership Training                      |

# INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

## Supporting Local Ideas. Creating Lasting Impact.

Communities know best what their residents need. Throughout 2025–2026, Rivers West District continued to invest directly in local initiatives by providing grant funding that supported community events, leadership development, recreation programming, coach education, and facility operations.

From summer celebrations and family events to youth programming, operator training, and coach certification, these investments helped remove barriers, build local capacity, and create opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in sport, culture, and recreation close to home.

Every grant represents more than financial support—it represents a partnership with communities that are working to create welcoming, active, and vibrant places to live.

| Program                                                                                                                 | Impact                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|  Events & Partnership Building Grant | 21 community projects supported |
|  Mobile Playground Program Grant     | 6 projects funded               |
|  Facility Operator Support Program   | 3 training opportunities funded |
|  Coaching Assistance Program         | 1 coach supported               |

# Grant funding supported projects in communities across the Rivers West District, helping bring local ideas to life.





# STRENGTHENING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

## Indigenous Community Sport Development Grant

The Indigenous Community Sport Development Grant (ICSDG) is a provincial initiative funded by Sask Sport Inc. to increase sport participation and development opportunities for Indigenous youth throughout Saskatchewan.

To ensure the program is responsive to local community needs, Sask Sport delivers the grant through Saskatchewan's network of Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts. As regional organizations with established community connections, Districts work directly with First Nations to administer the program, provide support throughout the application process, and help communities access funding that aligns with their own priorities.

At Rivers West District, we believe this work is about far more than administering grants. It is about building relationships, listening to community needs, and walking alongside First Nations as partners in strengthening opportunities for sport, recreation, and community wellness.

During the 2025–2026 fiscal year:

- 20 Indigenous communities received support through the program.
- 15 grants were approved.
- Rivers West successfully advocated for an increase in available funding from \$65,000 to \$80,000.
- Funding supported 13 different sports, including hockey, rugby, wrestling, soccer, archery, volleyball, and boxing.

The program helped foster new regional collaborations, including the First Nations Rugby League and the Northern Hockey Club, creating opportunities for youth from multiple communities to participate together.

***“Thanks to Rivers West and Sask Sport for the funding for much needed sports equipment. We will be starting our softball club this Saturday and Golf club next Tuesday.”***  
**Moosomin First Nation**



# FACES & VOICES OF RIVERS WEST



“The mingling with other participants, good instructors who are willing to help. This was a great workshop as always!!!”

**- Barn Quilt Workshop Participant**



“It was very fun to hear the ladies laugh and enjoy each other! I also loved the challenge of painting my very own painted quilt block. Great time and the instructors were amazing!”

**- Barn Quilt Workshop Participant**



Clearly understandable explanations about board responsibilities and the various roles and responsibilities. Goosebump moments. Thank you for your great work.”

**- Board Governance Participant**







“The TACT workshop in North Battleford was an outstanding investment in professional development. The content was highly practical, immediately applicable, and delivered with genuine enthusiasm. It provided not just skills, but confidence to implement them effectively. A truly transformative experience!”

**- TACT participant**

“This was an incredible experience. I appreciate the opportunity to enroll & sharing this workshop with my fellow participants.”

**-Mental Health First Aid Participant**



Loved the whole day! From start to finish, lunch, the greenhouse venue, the view, the weather!! Perfect. Very satisfying, had an awesome day! Thank you.

**- Planting Workshop Participant**



# LOOKING AHEAD

## **Building on a Strong Foundation**

As we look toward the coming year, Rivers West remains committed to helping communities thrive through collaboration, innovation, and meaningful support. Guided by our Strategic Plan and informed by the needs of our communities, we will continue building on the momentum of the past year.

## **Strengthen Community Connections**

Continue expanding our presence across the District through community visits, relationship-building, and meaningful partnerships that ensure every community feels connected to Rivers West and the supports we provide.

## **Support Volunteers and Community Leaders**

Provide practical tools, training, governance support, and leadership development opportunities that strengthen local organizations and help address volunteer capacity and burnout.

## **Inspire Active and Engaged Communities**

Create opportunities that encourage participation in sport, culture, and recreation while reducing barriers for people of all ages and abilities.

## **Foster Inclusive and Welcoming Communities**

Continue promoting learning opportunities that advance inclusion, accessibility, cultural awareness, and Truth and Reconciliation through respectful partnerships and community education.

## **Enhance Organizational Excellence**

Build on the governance, financial stewardship, and operational improvements introduced this year to ensure Rivers West remains a sustainable, responsive, and trusted organization.

## **Celebrate Community Success**

Continue sharing stories, recognizing volunteers, and highlighting the people and organizations that make Rivers West communities vibrant places to live, work, and play.



# CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

Rivers West is fortunate to be supported by individuals whose dedication has helped shape our organization and the communities we serve. This year, we were proud to recognize the following individuals for their years of service and commitment to sport, culture, and recreation.

**2025**

## Rivers West District Long Term Service Awards



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
ANTJE RONGVE PRESENTS  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATOR,  
BONNIE MILLS MIDGLEY  
WITH HER 15-YEAR SERVICE  
AWARD.**

### **Bonnie Mills Midgley – 15 Years of Service**

For 15 years, Bonnie has inspired communities through her passion for learning, partnership building, and community development. Her creativity, enthusiasm, and dedication have touched countless communities across the Rivers West District.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
ANTJE RONGVE PRESENTS  
VICE CHAIRPERSON,  
ERIN POITRAS  
WITH HER 15-YEAR SERVICE  
AWARD.**



### **Erin Poitras – 15 Years of Board Service**

Erin's leadership and commitment have helped guide Rivers West through years of growth and change. We are grateful for her ongoing dedication to the organization and the communities we serve.

# **WELCOME & FAREWELL**

**Welcome** to new Board members.



**SIOBHAN GORMLEY,  
NORTH BATTLEFORD**

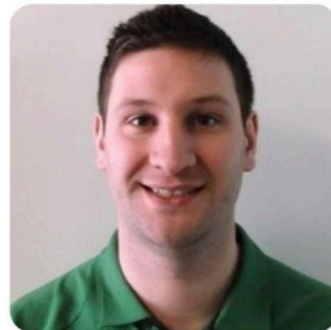


**MARK MISQUITTA,  
HAFFORD**

**Thank you** to departing Board members.



**OLLIE MARCINIUK  
2009 TO 2025**



**JORDAN SCHECHTEL  
2010 TO 2025**

*Thank  
You*



**STEVEN SCHWARTZ  
2023 TO 2025**



**KATE TYNDALL  
2025 TO 2026**

# THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PURPOSE

Dedicated to Strengthening Communities

**2025 - 2026**

## RIVERS WEST DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS



**ARLENE SOUTHGATE,  
CHAIRPERSON  
UNITY**



**ERIN POITRAS,  
VICE CHAIR  
BIGGAR**



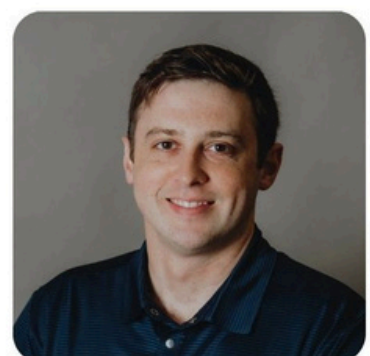
**BOYD WAKELIN,  
TREASURER  
BATTLEFORD**



**LISA WATSON,  
DIRECTOR  
ELROSE**



**NANCY SCHNEIDER,  
DIRECTOR  
ST. WALBURG**



**GERRY MURPHY,  
DIRECTOR  
ST. WALBURG**



**SIOBHAN GORMLEY,  
DIRECTOR  
NORTH BATTLEFORD**



**MARK MISQUITTA,  
DIRECTOR  
HAFFORD**



# THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PURPOSE

Dedicated to Strengthening Communities

**2025-2026**

## RIVERS WEST DISTRICT STAFF



**ANTJE RONGVE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NORTH BATTLEFORD



**BONNIE MILLS MIDGLEY**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATOR  
FRENCHMAN BUTTE



**BOBBI HEBRON**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATOR  
KERROBERT



**CHERYL CLARKE,**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE  
WARMAN



**CHELSEY GLADUE**  
DISTRICT DREAM BROKER  
NORTH BATTLEFORD

# THANK YOU!

Every success highlighted throughout this report was made possible through the commitment, collaboration, and support of our members, partners, volunteers, funders, Board of Directors, and staff. We are grateful for the relationships that continue to strengthen sport, culture, and recreation throughout west-central Saskatchewan.

Thank you for your trust, your collaboration, and your shared commitment to building vibrant, healthy communities. We look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.

## 2025–2026 MEMBERSHIPS

- Sask Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum
- Town of Battleford
- Springwater Activities Centre Inc.
- Henrietta Parenteau
- Biggar Museum & Gallery
- Cindy Hoppe Fibre Artist
- Ruthilda Métis Local #105
- Town of Biggar
- Castwell and Company Performing Arts
- Village of Borden
- R.M. of Great Bend No. 405
- Coleville Recreation Association
- Cut Knife Recreation Board
- Marion Blain
- Clayton McLain Memorial Museum
- Sask Seniors Fitness Association RWD
- Village of Denzil
- Village of Dinsmore
- Town of Eatonia
- R.M. of Chesterfield No. 261
- R.M. of Turtle River No. 469
- Town of Elrose
- R.M. of Monet No. 257
- Eston Riverside Regional Park
- R.M. of Snipe Lake No. 259
- Town of Eston
- Prairie West Historical Society
- Flaxcombe Recreation Association
- Frenchman Butte Museum Society Inc.
- Donna Nash
- R.M. of Newcombe No. 260
- Village of Goodsoil
- Goodsoil Historical Museum
- R.M. of Redberry No. 435
- Biggar Gymnastics Club
- R.M. of Harris No. 316
- Ancient Echoes Interpretive Centre
- R.M. of Grandview No. 349
- Town of Kerrobert
- Town of Kindersley
- Lorraine Close
- Village of Kinley
- Town of Lashburn
- Lashburn Town & Country Golf Club Inc.
- John Kerelchuk
- Charlotte Kerelchuk
- Alex Saliwonczyk
- City of Lloydminster
- Lloydminster Curling Club
- Lloydminster & Area Brain Injury Society
- R.M. of Loon Lake No. 561
- Village of Loon Lake
- Luseland Recreation Board
- R.M. of Heart's Hill No. 352
- Town of Maidstone
- Major Recreation Board
- R.M. of Milton No. 292
- Town of Marshall
- R.M. of Meting Lake No. 466
- City of Meadow Lake
- Village of Mervin
- Village of Mildred
- Manitou Pioneers Museum Inc.
- Battlefords Immigration Resource Centre
- Midwest Food Resources Project Inc.
- City of North Battleford
- CMHA Battlefords Branch
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Battlefords
- BGC Battlefords
- Battlefords Concern for Youth Inc
- Battlefords Minor Softball Association
- Village of Paradise Hill
- R.M. of Frenchman Butte No. 501
- Paynton Parks & Recreation
- Bresaylor Heritage Museum
- Village of Perdue
- Radisson Recreation Association
- Kathy McNinch
- R.M. of Marriott No. 317
- R.M. of Pleasant Valley No. 288
- Town of Rosetown
- Debra Southgate
- R.M. of Douglas No. 436
- Brightsand Lake Regional Park
- Town of St. Walburg
- Town of Turtleford
- R.M. of Mervin No. 499
- Town of Unity
- Village of Waseca
- Waseca Recreation Board
- Town of Wilkie

**Thank you for your support!**



# 2025–2026 PARTNERSHIPS

- Battleford Youth Network
- Biggar Gymnastics Club
- BGC Battlefords
- Brightsand Lake Regional Park
- City of Lloydminster
- City of Meadow Lake
- City of North Battleford
- CMHA Battlefords Branch
- Communities in Bloom
- Community Arts Mentorship Program
- Connaught School
- Creative Kids Battlefords
- Flaxcombe Rec Association
- Flying Dust First Nation
- Frenchman Butte Museum Society
- Hamlet of Frenchman Butte
- Heart of Treaty Six
- Hillmond Central School
- KidSport Battlefords
- Lakeland Library
- Lashburn Town & Country Golf Club
- Light of Christ School Division
- Listen to Dis Community Arts Organization
- Living Sky School Division
- Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation
- Marsden Seniors' Centre
- McKittrick Community School
- Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation
- New Horizons for Seniors Program
- North Sask River Basin Council
- Northwest School Division
- Provincial Eligible Cultural Organizations
- Provincial Recreation Organizations
- Provincial Sport Governing Bodies
- Provincial Sport Organizations
- Provincial Sport, Culture & Recreation Districts
- R.M. of Britannia No. 502
- R.M. of Eldon No. 471
- R.M. of Frenchman Butte No. 501
- R.M. of Mervin No. 499
- Roots of Hope - Battleford
- Roots of Hope - Meadow Lake
- Sask Sport Inc.
- SaskCulture Inc.
- Sask Seniors Fitness Association
- Sask Association of Rural Municipalities
- Sask Parks & Recreation Association
- Sask Urban Municipalities Association
- Servus Sports Centre
- Sports Medicine Council of Saskatchewan
- Spring Joy Greenhouse
- Thunderchild First Nation
- Thunderchild Wellness Centre
- TLC Greenhouse
- Town of Battleford
- Town of Biggar
- Town of Elrose
- Town of Kindersley
- Town of Lashburn
- Town of Maidstone
- Town of Rosetown
- Town of St. Walburg
- Town of Turtleford
- Town of Wilkie
- Village of Borden
- Village of Denzil
- Village of Mildren
- Village of Waseca
- West Central Municipal Government Committee

**Thank you to our Partners!**

**THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE RIVERS WEST  
DISTRICT COMMUNITY.**

**TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES  
THROUGH SPORT, CULTURE, AND RECREATION.**